



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
SERGIO G. DIAZ
Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date January 8, 2014

Contact: Officer Anthony Watkins (951) 826 – 8715

STOLEN DOG RECOVERED FOR SICK CHILD

RIVERSIDE, CA – Officer Anthony Watkins was assigned an investigation in which a Riverside resident, Shawna Hamon, purchased a puppy Pug for a seven-year-old child gravely ill due to leukemia. Ms. Hamon became aware of the child's health status and her desire to have a Pug for Christmas. An acquaintance of Ms. Hamon, who is a member of a Pug networking group Ms. Hamon belongs to, agreed to take custody of the Pug and deliver it to the child in Sacramento, CA. Unfortunately, the Pug never arrived in Sacramento and Ms. Hamon was unable to get it back. Ms. Hamon sent an animal delivery service company and an attorney to the woman's residence in Los Angeles but the woman would not give the Pug back. Ms. Hamon filed a police report with Riverside Police and through a follow-up investigation Officer Watkins and several Riverside Police Department personnel served a search warrant in the 3900 block of Edenhurst Avenue in the City of Los Angeles (Atwater Village area) on January 7, 2014. The RPD personnel went to several other locations in the City of Los Angeles throughout the day and eventually that afternoon located the woman at a residence in the 5500 block of Carlton (Hollywood area) in the City of Los Angeles. The officers found that the woman learned of RPD's active search for the Pug and concealed it at a neighbor's house prior to their arrival. Officer Watkins recovered the Pug from the neighbor's house and returned it to Ms. Hamon in Riverside. The sick child is currently in Pennsylvania receiving experimental treatment for her deadly disease. Per airline policies, Ms. Hamon will have the Pug checked at a local veterinary office. Ms. Hamon is purchasing an airline ticket and will personally fly the Pug to Pennsylvania to deliver it to the child. Officer Watkins will file his investigation with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office for potential theft charges (484a PC) against the Los Angeles woman.

Ms. Hamon said she is willing to entertain questions from the media and can be reached at 951-208-4776.

Primary RPD report number: P13-177004







